(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the permission of Government was sought in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for granting the permission to petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Three Retail Outlets of BPCL in Delhi have got L-53 licenses for retail vending of Beer/mixed alcoholic beverages through convenience stores located in their premises. These licences have been issued to the dealers by the Government of Delhi as per their extant policy.

Use of LPG as alternative fuel

†177. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to explore the use of LPG as alternative fuel in backward and hilly areas of the country specially in Orissa in order to protect environment and prevent constant deforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when Government would consider the same and explore the possibility in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) To promote the use of LPG as alternative fuel, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been releasing LPG connections across the counter in all the areas, including backward and hilly areas of Orissa and other parts of the country, bearing in mind the beneficial consequences to the environment of moderating deforestation. Government have advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans on semi-urban and rural areas and to take innovative steps like opening community kitchens in villages and sale of 5 kg cylinders to low-income group customers to increase the supply of LPG in uncovered areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.